Docket No.: NÜRNBERGER
Appl. No.: 09/923,051

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 19, wherein the deposits are dissolved at pH values in the range from about 6.0 to 8.0.

Claims 4-11 are cancelled;

12. (Currently amended) The process of claim ~~4~~ 18, wherein the water-carrying system includes one element selected from the group consisting of heat exchanger and cooling system and feed lines thereof, and the device for water supply includes one element selected from the group consisting of well, drinking water reservoir, drinking water conduit, filter system, water preparation plant, and plant sections and individual parts thereof.

Claim 13 is cancelled;

14. (Previously presented) The process of claim 26, wherein steps a), b) and c) are repeated at least once, before carrying out step d).

15. (Previously presented) The process of claim 26, wherein the oxidant is

hydrogen peroxide.

Claims 16-17 are cancelled.

18. (Currently amended) A process for removing deposits precipitated from cold freshwater from water-carrying systems and devices for water supply, or from their individual parts, said process comprising the steps of dissolving the deposit to be removed from cold freshwater in water-carrying systems and devices for water supply by contacting the deposit with an aqueous treatment solution comprised of a combination of a reducing agent selected from the group consisting of dithionite, disulfite and mixtures thereof, and a complexing agent selected from ~~2-phosphono-butane-1, 2, 4 -- tricarboxylic acid~~ phosphono butane-1, 2, 4 – tricarboxylic acid and its alkali metal salts for a period sufficient to dissolve at least part of said deposit and removing ~~the~~ spent treatment solution from the so treated water carrying system or the devices for water supply.

19. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the deposits are dissolved at pH values in the range of about 4.5 to 9.5.

20. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the concentration of the treatment solution of dithionite, disulfite or their mixture is in the range from 0.5 to 25 per cent by weight.

21. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the treatment solution further comprises at least a component selected from the group consisting of buffer salts, wetting agents and stabilizers, wherein the component is introduced in a state selected from the group consisting of dissolved state, emulsified state, and as suspended solids.

22. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the deposit is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of oxides, oxide hydrates, and hydroxides of iron metal or manganese.

23. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the contacting step in which the treatment solution is contacted with the deposit is carried out by at least one of spraying and washing off.

24. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the contacting step in which the treatment solution is contacted with the deposit is carried out by at least one of filling and rinsing the system or the device.

25. (Previously presented) The process of claim 18, wherein the device for water supply includes at least one selected from the group consisting of water wells, drinking water reservoir, drinking water conduit, filter system, water preparation plant, plant sections and individual parts thereof.

26. (Currently amended) The process of claim 18, wherein the device is a water well, said dissolving step including a) filling the well with the treatment solution, b) allowing the treatment solution to react with the deposit for a predetermined reaction time to dissolve the deposit in the treatment solution, c) subsequently emptying the well by pumping out its content together with the treatment solution with dissolved deposit, ~~where after~~ wherein an additional after-treatment step d) is carried out during which the treated well is subjected to an aqueous solution of an oxidant .